

# ANNUAL REPORT

READ BEFORE THE

## SABBATH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

HARRISBURG, MARCH 1, 1850.

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HARRISBURG, PA.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1901

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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WILLIAM L. HUNTER, COMMISSIONER

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

EDWIN M. STANLEY, EDITOR

1902

1901

## REPORT.

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WE are assembled on this interesting occasion to celebrate another anniversary.

God, in his providence, has overshadowed our schools with his wings of love, and we come together again to recount his mercies, and to give expression to our thankfulness.

Many years have elapsed since our school was first organized; and most of those who cherished it in its infancy, and to whose instrumentality we, in a great measure, owe our present prosperity, have passed away; bequeathing to us as a rich legacy, the responsibilities that now devolve upon us.

That these responsibilities are understood, and that the importance of our Sabbath school duties is well appreciated, is sufficiently evident from the zeal and energy that have been manifested in the management of the schools during the past year; and the flattering prospect now presented, leads us to look for better things to come.

Who that has watched our school in its growth, even from the very dawn of its existence, and seen the tiny rill that first gushed forth in our midst, (when but a mere handful of children came to drink of its limpid stream,) growing broader and deeper, as year after year rolled away, until now, when 500 children partake of its blessings—who that has seen the little twig



gradually expanding into a strong and noble tree—but must acknowledge that the hand of the Lord has been guiding his work, by prospering the efforts that have been put forth for the furtherance of his cause.

Truly, we have reason to be astonished at his goodness; let us then esteem it our highest honor, and a great privilege to be permitted to labor for the cause of Christ.

At the beginning of the year which has just closed, a new constitution was adopted for the government of the Society, in accordance with which an Assistant Male and an Assistant Female Superintendent were substituted for the former Board of Managers; and that the change has been in no wise prejudicial to the interests of the school, a brief examination of the following statistics will render sufficiently manifest.

### SENIOR DEPARTMENT.

The total number of scholars in this department is 244; comprising 107 boys and 137 girls.

20 males and 22 females have left the school during the year, and their places have been more than supplied by an addition of 20 boys and 32 girls, so that the whole number now in the school exceeds that of last year by 10. The average attendance has been decidedly better than for many previous years; and from our present prosperity, we have reason to hope that this is but the harbinger of brighter days in the future.

16 male and 18 female teachers are now engaged in breaking to these children the bread of life, and, it is believed, not without success, for assurance has been

given that some of them are anxiously seeking the pardon of their sins, being deeply concerned about the salvation of their souls.

The whole number of teachers in the school is 34. The average attendance during the year having been 26—12 gentlemen and 14 ladies.

The total number of verses of scripture and hymns recited (by the girls alone) is 35,305; no report having been received from any one of the male classes.

Of this amount, the highest number has been recited by class No. 1, amounting to 5,368; although several of the other classes exceed 4,000

Miss MARY HARRIS, of class No. 12, has committed to memory 2,432 verses; the greatest number learned by any individual.

Miss ELIZA BISHOP, of Class No. 1, has recited 2,273. Both these young ladies having manifested great industry in this important matter.

The former (Miss Mary Harris) was a member of our school but about one year. Between two and three months ago she removed to Lancaster, where she now resides. She is an orphan, and in destitute circumstances; and, although but 14 years of age, yet she seemed to have remarkably clear perceptions of the doctrines contained in the passages committed to memory, so that her teacher was encouraged to believe that the good seed had germinated, and is bringing forth the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

This exercise is one which ought to be encouraged by every teacher, as it tends to familiarize the mind with passages of the word of God, which, in times of affliction and in hours of despondency or trial, prove



a source of consolation to the soul and afford food for profitable meditation.

The statistics of the

## INFANT DEPARTMENT

Exhibits a no less flourishing condition of things.

There are at present connected with the school 212 scholars; of whom 20 have been added during the year.

The children are instructed by 4 male and 18 female teachers, whose devotion to their duties is worthy of the highest commendation.

19 boys and 25 girls have been transferred, during the year, into the Senior school. The average attendance of scholars has been considerably less than during the previous year.

The Librarian of the Senior school reports that 122 new volumes have been added to the library during the past year; so that the whole number now on the catalogue is 1,117. These additions have been made entirely by the contributions of the scholars, which have far exceeded those of any previous year; and this result testifies to the merits of our present revenue system, than which none could be better adapted to meet the wants of the school.

No new volumes have been added to the Infant school library, which numbers 250 books; yet 2,500 copies of cards, hymns and prayers have been printed, and \$12 77 have been appropriated to the purchase of class books, hymn books, and for such other necessary expenses of the school.

The Treasurer, Mr. DANIEL A. KEPNER, reports as follows:

Balance in treasury at commencement of year, - - - - -	\$14 23½
Received by donation from Mr. Catrell, -	100 00
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Total, - - - - -	\$114 23½
Disbursements during the year, -	114 56
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Leaving a balance in favor of the Treasurer of - - - - - 32½

Mr. DANIEL EPPLEY also reports, as follows:

Balance in hand at beginning of year, -	\$13 00
Received by contributions from the various classes, - - - - -	75 85
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Making a total of - - - - - \$88 85

Of this amount there has been spent for library books, bibles, testaments, &c., and in repairs to the library,- \$47 59

Also, paid for missionary purposes, - - - - - 10 00

	<hr/>	57 59
		<hr/>

Balance in treasury,- - - - - \$31 26

84 copies of the Youth's Penny Gazette, 81 of the American Messenger, and 6 of the Sabbath School Journal are taken in both schools. Total number, 171.

In September of the past year, intelligence was received of the destitution of two schools, lately organized in the town of Sheffield Ohio, by Mr. John Shott, once a faithful teacher in our school; and with



commendable promptness, a box of books was prepared to be sent to him. 94 Library and 16 Question books, 1 Catechism and a lot of papers, were selected from the Library of the Senior school, and 50 volumes from that of the Infant department, together with 200 copies of cards containing the Creed, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, &c. These reached their destination in safety and have doubtless been the means in the hands of God, of furthering his cause in that neighborhood.

Death has removed from us but one member of our school, Anne Rinehart, a little girl belonging to the Infant department, who died October 25, 1849.— And when we reflect that there are about 520 souls connected with our schools, either as teachers or scholars, Oh! how should we not rejoice that but one out of so many has been called away; that while sickness has been abroad in the land, and the pestilence with tainted breath has blighted some of the fairest portions of our happy country, the hand of the destroying angel has been stayed so that we have not been consumed.

Then let the mercy that has spared us, be the means of bringing us closer to God and of inducing us to labor more diligently for the promotion of his glory.

As is well known to all here present; the bequest of Mr. Catrell, has been appropriated to the purchase of a Teachers' Library, whose benefits have been extended, in accordance with the will of the Society, to such others as may wish to enjoy them. The particulars of this appropriation and the reasons thereof, being familiar to you all, I need not occupy time by recount-



ing them; yet we, as teachers of the school, may, with propriety, congratulate ourselves upon the rich fund of valuable religious knowledge thus opened out before us. Here we have the means afforded us of perusing works, calculated to prepare our minds for the proper performance of our Sabbath duties; and what vast importance attaches to this matter, when we look around and see how seldom, in modern education, religion is made the object of every day instruction. Men seek to feed and discipline the mind, whilst they famish the soul; yet, of what benefit, let me ask, would it be to develope the intelligence, to enrich the memory, to fertilize the talents, whilst the soul, the immortal man, is utterly neglected? What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

In order to adorn the mind, to embellish the intellect, men are willing to sacrifice everything, and too often make shipwreck of their souls.

It is true, that by intelligence and reason wonders are achieved, the elements of matter are controlled, our lands are fertilized, our cities adorned; that by their aid we navigate the trackless ocean, and almost make neighbors of our antipodes, but these all belong to earth, and have reference only to the life that now is, whilst the soul looks forward to that which is to come; out of time it makes eternity! of space, immensity; and of death, immortality.

The literature of the present day is of such a character as to require the utmost exertion on the part of all true philanthropist to counteract its evil tendency. Many of the works now issued are not wanting in talent; but, alas! they have lost their regenerating



mission, the public mind has become vitiated, and authors seek only to pamper the corrupt taste of their readers; so that we are surrounded on every hand, either "by ludicrous figures or frightful dramas, without one look towards heaven or one sentiment for the heart."

Let us, then, prize the advantages we enjoy, and endeavor to profit by the store of intelligence thus opened out before us.

The total number of scholars, in both schools, is 456; the average attendance in the Senior school, for the year, has been 149, or 60 per cent. of the whole number connected with that department; that of the Infant school has been 116, or 55 per cent.

The attendance, therefore, throughout the past year, in both schools, has been 265; which number, I believe, might readily be raised to 400, if both parents and teachers were only impressed with the importance of Sabbath school instruction.

Ours is, indeed, a noble work, and, oh! that there were more to be found willing to engage in it, and ready to adopt the spirit of Peter's exclamation to the poor cripple: "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee." We all have time and talents, which have been given to us to be used, and not to be folded in a napkin or buried in the ground; but, alas! how few, comparatively few, are impressed with the conviction that all they have is from the Lord, and, therefore, should be spent in his service. The Society has been very much cramped in its efforts, during the year, by the inability to procure teachers, especially male teachers, willing to devote themselves in this way to the cause of the Reedmer; and, I believe, that to this insufficiency and irregularity of teachers is attri-



butable, in a great measure, the carelessness and want of punctuality too often manifested by the scholars—I have learned from parents themselves, that their children have got such a distaste for Sabbath school, because they have no regular teacher, that it is with great difficulty they are induced to attend.

This ought not to be. We should feel proud of the cause in which we are engaged, and be willing to devote to the work all the energies of body and mind with which we are gifted.

Yet, I would not have any one enter upon this service unadvisedly, remembering that we have to do with the immortal soul, whose destiny is eternity; and the reflection that, according as we teach and as we act, so, in a great measure, will be formed the characters of those committed to our care. Oh! how is not such a thought calculated to impress us with the awful responsibilities resting upon us.

The great object of Sabbath school instruction should be to develope moral sense, to excite the soul to a just appreciation of its own worth, and of the importance of its destiny. Is the work then of trifling moment? We are told that the angels of Heaven rejoice over one sinner that repenteth, and shall we neglect to break the bread of life to those precious souls entrusted to our guidance, or refuse to lead them to the fountain of living waters, that they may drink, and thirst no more.

Yet, I am fully aware that teachers have much to discourage them. The dullness or ingratitude of the children, the want of co-operation by parents, the unconcern of the members of the church, and the lack of interest manifested by other teachers; all these,



sometimes, prove disheartening, and yet they are the very reasons why we should re-double instead of relax our efforts.

If, after all our labor, we find one or more scholars still destitute of gratitude, and, to all appearances, unimproved, we should be stimulated to greater exertion, that we may be instrumental in saving their souls. Does the physician forsake his patient because he is diseased.

The insensibility of parents should also induce redoubled activity on our part, by convincing us that the children are cast entirely upon *us* for moral and religious improvement. So, too, the little interest sometimes displayed by others connected with the school, should be the greatest of all reasons for our continued faithfulness.

Much might be said in reference to the unconcern of the members of the church. Even those of them that are parents, seldom think it worth their while to visit the school, to see how things are there conducted; they get their children ready and send them off on Sabbath afternoon, and imagine that they have done everything that is required of them. I do not ask the older members of the church, who have already borne the burden and heat of the day, to come and take part in the actual labor of the Sabbath school, but I do ask them to manifest, by their occasional presence, an interest in its welfare. Teachers would then feel that their arduous duties were appreciated by the church, and scholars, finding that others were concerned for their spiritual welfare, would have a great incentive to increased diligence.

Besides a few words of encouragement, now and then



given to the children, by those who have grown gray in the service of their master, and who are, therefore, so well able to testify to the pleasures attendant upon a christian life, come home with peculiar force to the hearts of those who are but just beginning to learn that religions' ways are ways of pleasantness, and that all her paths are paths of peace.

Let me, in conclusion, refer you to the notable miracle performed by our Savior, after he arose from the tomb. (John xxi; 1—14.) He found his disciples fishing; they had toiled all night, but had taken nothing; their own feeble efforts were unavailing. Jesus commanded them to cast the net on the right side of the ship, whereupon they enclosed a great multitude of fishes. So if we teach merely as a pastime, for convenience through form, or to be seen of men, we also may expect to toil in vain; but if, like the disciples, we obey Christ, if we engage in our work prayerfully, and with faith that Jesus will prosper our efforts, then we will be casting the net on the right side of the ship, and we have reason to believe that many souls will be enclosed therein and brought safely to God.

LEWIS L. HAUPT,  
*Secretary.*

